



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Influenza Surveillance, 2011-2012 Season: Summary of Special Instructions for Hospitals

Changes have been made to the Department of Public Health (DPH) influenza surveillance system for the 2011-2012 season. Below is a summary of the current influenza reporting requirements. The Emerging Infections Program (EIP) at the Yale School of Public Health is again assisting the DPH in surveillance activities for **residents of Hartford, Middlesex, and New Haven counties** and in this capacity is acting as an agent of the State. *Hospitalized patients who are residents of these counties should be reported to the Yale EIP. Hospitalized patients who are residents of all other counties should be reported to the DPH. All flu-associated deaths in any county should be reported to the DPH.* The Yale EIP or the DPH will share reports with the relevant local health departments through the CT Electronic Disease Surveillance System (CEDSS or Maven).

Questions? Call Alan Siniscalchi (DPH: 860-509-7994) or Kim Yousey-Hindes (Yale: 203-764-5942).

Hospitalization due to influenza (The case report form is attached and is available on the DPH website at:

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious_diseases/pdf_forms/icp_flu_hosp_deaths_form.pdf)

- Must be reported within 12 hours of the day of recognition or strong suspicion (i.e. patients with compatible illness regardless of the results of the initial rapid and/or DFA test), all cases should be tested for influenza by rRT-PCR; do not wait for the results of PCR testing to report cases.
- After hours or on holidays reporting should be done the next normal business day.
- Reporting is done by sending the case report form via fax to the Yale EIP at 203-764-4357 (for residents of Hartford, Middlesex, and New Haven counties) or the DPH at 860-509-7910 (for residents of all other counties). Direct reporting will also be possible through the web-based CEDSS and *we encourage you to use this option as it will help speed dissemination of information.*

Death due to influenza (Using the same case report form described above and attached)

- Must be reported within 12 hours of the day of recognition or strong suspicion (i.e. patients with compatible illness), please save respiratory specimens for post-mortem PCR testing. Reporting is done by faxing the case report form to the DPH at 860-509-7910 (for residents of any county).

Criteria for submission of specimens to the DPH Public Health Laboratory

- To monitor circulating influenza strains throughout the season and to determine the effectiveness of this season's vaccines, we would like to have subtyping done on specimens obtained from all patients hospitalized with influenza-related illness. Subtyping by rRT-PCR testing will be done at the DPH Laboratory. There is no charge to the patient or healthcare provider.
- Criteria available at:
http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/infectious_diseases/flu/pdf/flu_lab_submission_instructions_20112012_fnl.pdf
- These influenza testing criteria are subject to change as the season evolves
- The laboratory submittal form and instructions are available at:
http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/laboratory/labhome/pdf/ol-9b_form_4.10.pdf